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**1962/08/08**

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August 8, 1962

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Pros and Cons of the Pre-commitment proposed in Course C.

Course C states: "commit United States to help Cubans overthrow the Castro-communist regime, with a step-by-step phasing to ensure success, including the use of U.S. military force if required at the end."

(It may be reasonably assumed that a U.S. pre-commitment to Cuban exiles involving the use of U.S. military forces against Cuba would be quickly and widely known).

Advantages:

1. Recruitment of Cuban exiles to engage in operations against the Castro Government would be facilitated. CIA has reported reluctance on the part of many qualified Cuban exiles to engage in such operations without assurances that their efforts will result in Castro's overthrow.
2. The morale of anti-Castro elements in Cuba would be improved, possibly to the extent of encouraging them to resist the Castro Government more actively.

Disadvantages

1. Widespread knowledge abroad of the pre-commitment would seriously complicate our relations with many hemispheric nations, the OAS, our NATO allies and others.
2. Cubans in and out of Cuba would seize the initiative and probably try to force our hand by creating a minor show of resistance and insisting thereupon that we fulfill the commitment. U.S. military action under such circumstances would be politically unfeasible.
3. Since the U.S. could not control the timing of a widespread revolt in Cuba, the world situation may be such that it would be politically and militarily unfeasible for us to fulfill such a commitment at the time a revolt occurred.
4. The internal support for Castro would be stiffened, at least in the short term.

IS/FPC/ODR *W. W. W. W. W.* Date: 12-18-92

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